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Filibustering At Big 4 Council

Molotov Withdraws Proposal

London, Dec. 1.—The Council of Big Four Ministers today continued with some filibustering to discuss the procedure for the preparation of the German peace treaty and failed to agree on any of the points discussed.

The bulk of the session was taken up in discussing the proposal by Mr. George Marshall and Mr. Georges Bidault that a clause should be inserted in the future German Constitution compelling Germany to adhere to provisions of the peace treaty.

This proposal was accepted by Mr. Ernest Bevin, but Mr. Vyacheslav Molotov maintained it would be "an intolerable humiliation for the German people for which there is absolutely no reason."

There was considerable repetition of previously expressed views by the four Foreign Ministers as they embarked on the second week of the conference which will probably decide whether Germany is to be united or divided.

M. Molotov said he thought it was possible to believe in the pacific and democratic spirit of the German people and that if the clause was inserted in their constitution compelling them to abide by the peace treaty, Germany would become "permanently dependent on the other nations."

MOLOTOV'S COMPLAINT

Assuming that the four power control would be maintained in Germany after the adoption of a constitution, there was no fear that the provisions of a peace treaty would be violated. The clause would make Germany dependent on the caprice of a victor and end by reducing her to a colony. Germany would be unable to build a true and peaceful democracy, M. Molotov added.

Mr. Marshall declared that he did not see how the clause could have the effect described by M. Molotov any more than the peace treaty itself would.

Mr. Bevin said he was surprised at M. Molotov's remarks, which, he said, insinuated that those three countries who were working for inserting the clause necessarily wished to reduce Germany to a colony.

Mr. Bidault replied in strong terms to M. Molotov's remarks, saying the question was "could we or could we not allow the German constitution."



The first picture received in Hongkong of the royal bridal group taken in Buckingham Palace after the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. The group includes the bridesmaids, page boys, the King and Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Andrew of Greece, Philip's mother.

INTRANSIGENT COMMUNISTS

Will Continue To Fight French Govt.

Paris, Dec. 1.—The Communist majority of the General Convention of Labour today threw down a gauntlet that it would never negotiate with the Government to settle France's chaotic strikes if the Government's emergency measures—now before the Assembly—became law.

It was flat notice that the Communists would proceed with the programme to battle the Government all along the line, regardless of what happened. It also meant the battle lines were even more firmly drawn now because new strikes were being planned by the Communist-led unions, laws which the Government of Premier Robert Schuman demanded, to put legal weapons in its hands in the hour of crisis.

Following the meeting, the Communist majority issued a communique saying the Communists and Government were over and adding, "The Communist majority states that no new negotiation could begin once the infamous laws now being discussed by the Assembly are promulgated."

Only Communists who were in the majority in the leadership of the CGT's 6,000,000 members signed the communique, indicating that finally labour, too, was itself splitting apart.—United Press.

Senate Approves Aid To Europe

Washington, Dec. 2.—A US\$597,000,000 European aid bill was approved by the Senate today.

The action sent the bill to an uncertain fate in the House, where the Foreign Affairs Committee is writing its own bill, which includes US\$60,000,000 aid for China.—Associated Press.

VANDENBERG'S APPEAL

Washington, Dec. 1.—Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Republican Foreign Affairs leader urged "utmost speed and dispatch" in the Senate today in calling for the final vote on the \$597,000,000 stopgap aid programme to Europe before midnight "for the sake of Western European morale."

Pointing out that the Upper Chamber had been working seven days on the urgent measure, Mr. Vandenberg said: "We are going to go to this fire and try to put it out, let us get there quickly."

Mr. Vandenberg declared: "This thing means more than dollars—it means the freedom of Western Europe and the maintenance of the moral of those countries which are up against the furious forces of subjugation."

FUNDS RESTORED

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee voted to restore \$30,000,000 of the \$100,000,000 previously ordered to be deleted from the programme.

The committee left intact the \$60,000,000 authorization for aid to China, bringing to \$597,000,000 the total amount now in the committee's bill measure, which now falls \$70,000,000 short of the amount President Truman asked for in the aid for Italy, France and Austria.

A later report says the Senate today approved the \$597,000,000 programme for stopgap aid to France, Italy and Austria.—Reuter.

DORMITORY FIRE KILLS SIX

Philadelphia, Dec. 2.—Flames whipped through a dormitory for homeless men early today, leaving six known dead, 10 believed missing and at least 30 injured.

Some of the victims were killed or injured in leaping from their quarters in the second and third floors.—Associated Press.

Grandi Acquitted

Rome, Dec. 1.—Count Dino Grandi, Italian Ambassador in London during Mussolini's regime, was completely cleared by a special court here today of six main charges in connection with Fascist activities.

Count Grandi is now in Portugal and was tried in his absence.—Reuter.

Chinese-Owned Ships Sailing Without Qualified Engineers

Chinese-owned ships carrying cargo and passengers are being allowed to clear Hongkong without having aboard a certificated Chief Engineer as required by law, the Harbour Office admitted yesterday.

An official explained that there is a serious shortage of certificated Chief Engineers and that if permits were not issued to ships without engineers, the ships would be unable to sail at all.

When the Telegraph interviewed Mr. G. T. Lloyd, Secretary of the China Coast Officers' Guild, he denied the Harbour Office claim there was a serious shortage of qualified engineers.

"There is no shortage of Chief Engineers in Hongkong," he declared, "there is only a shortage of shipowners who are willing to pay Chief Engineers the standard rates of pay."

"The result is that qualified Guild members will not sign on these ships."

"We insist that the labourer is worthy of his standard rates. The Chinese will not pay them."

HAS FOUR AVAILABLE

Supporting his contention that there was no shortage of certificated Chief Engineers in the Colony, Mr. Lloyd said that he has three or four available.

Actually, he said, the supply here is greater than the demand, and this also applies to deck officers.

Another source informed the Telegraph yesterday that after refusing to pay Chief Engineers the standard rates, Chinese shipping owners appeal to the Harbour Department on the ground that they are unable to obtain certificated engineers, and out of sympathy, permits have been granted them.

As an indication that the law has not been entirely waived, a Chinese owner of a motor boat was last week fined \$150 and \$100 on two counts of leaving his vessel in the charge of an uncertificated coxswain and for not carrying a certificated Chief Engineer.

Took 100 Aspirins And Lived

Bristol, Dec. 1.—A man who took 100 aspirin tablets and then tried to drive a lorry over the edge of a 100-foot precipice was bound over at Bristol today for attempting to commit suicide.

William Kenneth Neakes, of Bedminster, who pleaded guilty, was said to have told the police: "I felt fed up with things and decided to end it. I took about 100 aspirins and sat in the van until dark. Then I drove to the top of the quarry."

"I had intended to drive it over, but it became suspended on the wire around the quarry and I scrambled out of the back."

The police found the lorry hanging over the precipice. It was impossible to recover it and it crashed down.—Reuter.

Hunger Fear In Britain

Bleak Winter Ahead

London, Dec. 2.—Britons appeared to be increasingly worried on Monday that they may become really hungry before next summer's food crop begins to flow into the shops.

Doctors, clergymen and newspapers expressed fears that the food shortage may bring on diseases and cut workers' energy enough to hamper the nation's "produce for recovery" industrial drive.

Geoffrey Cox, political correspondent of the Liberal News Chronicle, reported that many Labour Members of Parliament and some members of the government are urging the sale of more of Britain's reduced foreign investments in order to buy food abroad.

A spokesman in the Government departments would neither confirm nor deny that such a course might be taken.

Meanwhile, next year's crops are largely threatened by the drought which has prevented ploughing in many of the richest British agricultural areas. The drought and last spring's snows and floods cut this year's crop so heavily that potatoes—staple part of the British diet—have had to be rationed to three pounds weekly per person and there have been hints that the ration may have to be cut.

Potato rationing brought the British diet to 2,700 calories a day—10 percent below the level which a depression year's study set as the minimum for health.—Associated Press.

Seven-Nation Arab League Council To Meet

MORE INCIDENTS REPORTED

Cairo, Dec. 1.—The seven-nation Arab League Council will meet in Cairo on December 12 to discuss the United Nations decision to split Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, Abdul Rahman Azzam Pasha, the Secretary-General of the League announced in Cairo today.

The meeting was called after Azzam Pasha had had telephone conversations with the Premiers of Syria, Iraq, the Lebanon and Egypt, which with Saudi Arabia, Transjordan and the Yemen, form the Arab League.

Speculation was rife in Cairo on what action the Arab League would take in response to the United Nations vote while Arab demonstrations throughout the Arab countries flared up with attacks and demonstrations against Western institutions and the United Nations.

Students of Faud Al Awal University in Cairo today marched through the streets shouting Palestine for the Arabs—Down with the United Nations—the demonstrators shouted. British business houses reached Cairo from the demonstrations escorted by steel-helmeted motorised police, the demonstrations passed off without any incidents.

Reports of other Arab demonstrations in the Middle East and Near East countries included:

Beirut—Ten thousand students stoned the United States Information Office and the French Legation. Carrying Arab flags and posters inscribed, "Fire and steel is the only language the Zionists understand." The students marched through the streets of Beirut shouting anti-American slogans.

Jerusalem—Palestine Arabs were due to start a three-day protest strike tomorrow while they waited for further action orders from the Palestine Arab Higher Committee. The Arabs staged a protest march through the streets of the Holy City from the Jaffa Gate to the Damascus Gate, chanting, "Down with the United Nations—Down with the United States."

JEW SHOT IN NECK

A young Jew was shot twice in the neck outside the Damascus Gate, an official statement said. He was taken to the Government hospital in Jerusalem.

The Palestine High Commissioner, today saw Mr. David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive for discussions on certain details of local administration. An official statement said. The statement added that Mr. Gurion is likely Prime Minister in a future Jewish State.

The Jewish Agency Executive was meeting today to draft a special proclamation to world Jewry on the birth of the new Jewish State.

Britain counts on the Palestine Arabs doing nothing to conflict with her intention to maintain law and order in Palestine until withdrawal before August 1, next. The High Commissioner told Dr. Hussein Khalidi, secretary of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee, earlier today.

Sir Alan Cunningham who reaffirmed the British intention of maintaining law and order until the withdrawal of troops and civil administrators, discussed with Dr. Khalidi proposals to assure the security of Arabs in the Arab areas, it was officially stated.

JEWISH CELEBRATIONS

Jews, meanwhile, continued their celebrations for what they consider is the establishment of the first Jewish State of modern times.

Damascus—Tension was rising in the Syrian capital with angry crowds making spontaneous anti-partition demonstrations.

Universities and schools in Damascus are starting to recruit volunteers to fight the Jews in Palestine.

The Syrian Parliament was meeting tonight to discuss the situation.

Ibrahim Attalah Pasha, the Egyptian army Chief-of-Staff, left Cairo today for El Arish, the Egyptian town on the Palestine border, to inspect the Egyptian army garrison there.

Attalah Pasha inspected troops outside Cairo yesterday.

It was reliably forecast in London today that Britain will tell the United Nations either on Wednesday or on Thursday, when she will start withdrawing her 100,000 troops from Palestine.

The British Cabinet meets tomorrow to discuss the United Nations Assembly resolution to partition the Holy Land.

PREPARING WITHDRAWAL

Preparation for the evacuation was speeded up today, and the next major decision is the date on which Britain ends her mandate. This will probably be some months before the final military evacuation due to be completed on August 1.

The British will, meanwhile, continue to oppose illegal immigration but continue to admit 1,500 refugees a month as the official quota.

Official quarters today emphasised that the military withdrawal will be as impartial as possible.

Meanwhile, all British security forces in Palestine were standing by tonight to deal with any possible disturbances when the three-day Arab general strike begins at dawn tomorrow.

Extrajudicial detentions of Arab auxiliary police were being drafted into Jerusalem from outlying districts.

Parols of the Hagannah, the Jewish defence organisation, were out throughout the country ready to defend Jewish lives and property. Jewish sources said.

Apart from minor incidents reported from country districts, mainly the stoning of Jewish buses by Arab children, the only casualty today was that of a young Jew shot outside the Damascus Gate.—Reuter.

EX-SIAMESE MINISTER HELD

Bangkok, Dec. 1.—Dr. Guan Bunnag, Minister of Commerce and Finance, was arrested in the Siamese Government overthrown last month, was today reported to be in custody.

His house was searched yesterday as were those of many other prominent people, among them the former Minister of Industry, Thongin Bhuriphat, who, it was reported, was ordered by the military authorities to vacate his house which is Crown property.

It was disclosed here that the group with the former Prime Minister, Pridi Panomyong, in Singapore includes the naval lieutenant, Vajirachul Chaisiddheve, his private secretary, whose name has been linked here with a man wanted in connection with the inquiry into the mysterious death of King Ananda Mahidol, found dead with a bullet wound in his head in June, 1946.

The Siamese Government, it was understood, were awaiting reports from the Siamese Consul at Penang regarding a report that the former Premier, Thammong, was there.—Reuter.

Louis Quoted At 7 To 1 To Win Title Bout

New York, Dec. 1.—Although Joe Louis is at present favoured at seven to one over Joe Walcott advance sales indicated a sell out rate of \$270,000 for the world heavyweight title fight at the Madison Square Garden on Friday night.

The lopsided betting price seemingly will not prevent Louis—the greatest ring attraction since Jack Dempsey—from bettering the Garden's record of \$291,465 in his 24th defence of his crown won from Jim Braddock in 1937.

The champion and challenger are elderly negroes, pugilistically speaking, for each is 33. However, this has not lessened the desire of fans to see the great Louis in action once again against the best contender that could be culled from a comparatively mediocre crop of heavyweights.

In case of an upset, Walcott—the father of six children—truly would deserve the designation of Brown Cloud, a name which already has been given him by some writers because of his Braddock-like resurrection from the pugilistic scrap heap and the relief list.

Boxing men generally believed the challenger may give Louis an interesting fight for seven or eight rounds unless he freezes with tension and

gets knocked out in the first round. Regardless of age and inactivity, Louis has appeared surprisingly sharp in training. At the weighing in on Friday the champ weighs to scale 210, and Walcott, 193 pounds, in addition, Louis has a two-inch advantage of height and a two-inch advantage of reach.

Walcott met Louis in the ring as sparring partner when Louis was training for his first fight with Max Baer in 1935. Newspaper clippings disclosed Walcott made Louis look bad in their top round.—United Press.

[Other world sports news on Page 4]

EDITORIAL

Critical Days In Palestine

PALESTINE appears to be destined to become a battleground unless the United Nations, responsible for the Partition Plan, can assert its authority sufficiently to keep the Arab and Jewish armed forces apart. The situation, from whatever angle it is viewed, is serious. The Arabs, who agree reluctantly it is admitted, that the problem of Palestine be settled by the United Nations, are now repudiating and defying its ruling—a challenge to majority opinion which is as dangerous as it is deplorable. The Arabs and their supporters contend that partition is "not a United Nations solution but one imposed by power politics" but the weakness of this protest is that nothing more practicable has been advanced. The Holy Land problem is one that demands decisive, if rather drastic measures, and while partition may not be the ideal solution, it does rate as a genuine attempt to satisfy rival claims. The hostile and belligerent attitude of the Arabs creates possibilities which may well bring grave repercussions. A war can be started which may not easily be confined to the Holy Land; in any event it would be a savage conflict of attrition. The Jewish underground organisations have already proved by their activities against British police and troops that they are fairly well armed, while the Arabs possess weight of numbers, and are fanatics. The Arabs in-

st they mean business; the Jews reply they will adopt any measures to sustain the partition plan; and the signs are that neither are bluffing. The onus for preventing a bloodbath could appear to rest with the United Nations, though it is not clear what positive action UNO can take. It does not yet possess an international police force, and if it called on the United States and Soviet Russia, as the prime-movers of the Partition Plan, to supply the necessary armed forces, there is firstly, no guarantee they would succeed in maintaining order, and secondly a distinct likelihood that Russia would find it expedient to keep her troops indefinitely in such a strategic area of the Middle East. The United Nations will probably continue to depend on appeals to reason, but the prospects of the Arabs, taking any notice of appeals in the light of realities, be regarded as hopeful. Britain's position is clear, but by no means easy. Having surrendered her mandate to the United Nations, she has signified that she intends to start withdrawing troops, police and administrative offices. The accomplishment is likely to be less easy than the intention, for it is impossible to see how British forces could expect to remain unmolested in the event of an Arab-Jewish war. The conclusion to be drawn from the current situation is that the next 14 days will be among the most critical in the history of Palestine.

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DIVORCE: A burning question that never ceases to burn

By GEORGE EDINGER

IN Prague recently lawyers of all nations talked over a burning question that never ceases to burn... the question of divorce laws and their reform. Its convener is a barrister of the Middle Temple, Dr Constantine Colombos.

Can the different nations of the world reach some common agreement on divorce?

There is no conflict of laws more involved than the clash of divorce laws.

Divorce in the modern world ranges over all the stages between virtual prohibition and mutual arrangement between the two parties.

Divorce in the ancient world did just the same. In the Athens of Pericles a husband could obtain a divorce whenever he wished. A wife whenever the High Judge (Archon) thought it right.

In Caesar's time

IN the Rome of Julius Caesar there were three degrees of marriage and three degrees of divorce also.

Marriages by the mystic ceremony of "confarreatio" (the taking before a pontiff of a sacred wedding cake) were indissoluble. But marriages by confarreatio were rare.

More frequent was the civil ceremony, the handing over of a wife into the possession of her husband, which was called manus.

Under manus, the husband could divorce his wife when he chose, but the wife could not divorce the husband at all.

Most frequent was the "union" under which the parties could separate by mutual agreement.

True, that was 2,000 years ago, but all Western law is based on Roman law. And those three degrees of marriage, with their three several concepts, lie at the base of the divorce laws of all the nations in the modern world.

Observe the distinction in the degrees of Roman marriage... from the mystically indissoluble confarreatio to the contract by

mutual agreement of the union that can be dissolved at will.

Both conceptions of marriage, and all degrees between them, exist in the world of 1947. But no modern State accepts the two together as the Roman Republic used to do.

It is illegal

SO divorce is illegal in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Eire, Malta, Brazil and the Argentine.

It is also illegal in several Canadian provinces, notably Quebec, and in Newfoundland.

In rare instances, generally for nullity, the Vatican can annul a marriage, but there is no divorce.

In Soviet Russia the courts will grant a divorce wherever both parties agree to ask for one.

France gives husband or wife a divorce for unfaithfulness, cruelty, violence, the imprisonment of one party, or habitual drunkenness.

In Austria "involuntary aversion" is a ground for divorce, but imprisonment is only a ground if the sentence is over five years.

In South Africa "desertion" has to be proved "malicious," and where the ground is the imprisonment of one party, it must be a life sentence.

On this question of imprisonment as a plea, New Zealand makes a seven-year sentence the minimum ground for divorce, Czechoslovakia three, Sweden only one.

U.S. has 49 codes

THOUGH desertion is a ground for divorce in most countries where divorce is permitted, the period of desertion varies from place to place.

In Holland (the only country where proceedings take place in camera) the period is five years, in Scotland four, in Switzerland three, in German only one.

The United States of America has a different law for every State in the Union, and a separate one for Alaska, making 49 divorce codes in all.

Desertion is a ground of divorce in six States out of every seven, but the period varies from State to State, imprisonment (again for different lengths of time), in 39 States, drunkenness in 38 and neglect in 22.

Probably the laws of the Scandinavian countries are, to the contemporary mind, the most logical.

Sweden gives a divorce after a year's separation by consent, or for six years' absence of either party without news.

The king has a prerogative right in special cases to grant a divorce on grounds that fall outside the ordinary framework of the law: violence, petty crime and even wanton extravagance.

In Denmark the position is practically the same as in Sweden. In Norway, if both parties agree to a divorce after three years of separation, the courts will grant it.

But the most vexed of all the questions which the lawyers gathered in Prague were discussing, is the problem of nationality.

Should a woman lose her nationality if she marries a foreigner? Can she recover it if she is divorced from him, or must she still be a foreigner if she returns to her own country?

Is it right or just, as was the case in England till a few months ago, that an English-born wife should be classed as an alien while the foreign-born wife of an Englishman is accepted as British?

Divergent views

ON that problem all countries have divergent views. In Austria the wife takes her husband's nationality, irrevocably.

In Bulgaria only as long the marriage lasts; after which the Government may restore her own.

In Belgium the wife takes her husband's nationality, but only conditionally, for within the first six months of marriage she can, by making the necessary declaration before a Belgian consul, retain her Belgian citizenship.

France does not accord French citizenship to the foreign wife of a Frenchman, unless the laws of her own country make her take her husband's nationality or she makes a written request to become French.

A Frenchwoman remains French whatever the country of her husband, but an Italian woman who marries a foreigner and cannot recover Italian citizenship after divorce, unless she returns to live in Italy.

The foreign wife of a Greek becomes Greek, too; the Greek wife of a foreigner ceases to be Greek forever. But a Turkish woman remains Turkish always.

And there is another conflict of laws. Some countries will recognise the divorce laws of other countries.

In the extreme case of the United States, for instance, where, for purposes of the marriage laws, each State is a separate country, all admit the divorce laws of each other.

So people anxious for a divorce need only cross the State line to a place where divorce is easier—or, in extreme cases, into Nevada, where it is easiest of all.

But other countries make greater difficulties.

While most European nations that allow divorce because of separation consider that the separation which carries a husband across a frontier is a stronger ground for divorce than any other, a British court will not grant a divorce unless the husband is still domiciled in Britain.

And those strongly Roman Catholic countries like Spain, Portugal and Italy which do not allow any divorce at all on their own soil logically refuse to recognise divorces that are granted abroad. A divorce valid in Scotland would not be accepted in Eire.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

SINCE Saxon days the people of Cheopham Bivney have brought in the snedger on December 2. Today at dawn the snedger-bringers will assemble in the old tithe barn. Then, led by the Master-Snedger, they will walk on stilts to the Golt Cross in the Market Place, singing the eighth-century huck-song, and wearing their gilt cardboard hats.

The oldest woman in Cheopham Bivney, Mrs Brass (104) will then read out the scribble after which four young men will haul the snedger from Cow Down to the crossroads. It is a picturesque ceremony and Professor Towell states in his "East Merican Folk Ceremonies" that it probably goes back to the days of Eggrith the Bald.

Prodigious! But what is the snedger? Myself: That has never been disclosed.

Staggered schedules

BY AN INDUSTRIALIST
THE staggering of schedules affects both employers and employees, but in different ways. To have its full effect on overall personnel output, the staggering must be total, so that, by balancing man-hours and work-hours, the full potential can be obtained without disturbing the ratio of effort to result. By a reintegration

of effectives, aimed at reducing wastage to a minimum efficiency can be more than doubled, provided always that no schedule is left unstagged. By a rigid rationalisation of effectives, the units in each schedule can be redistributed from a common pool, to avoid interlocking of departmental groups.

Mr Mullet on the situation

MR. GODFREY ("RED") MULLET'S face wore a mysterious smile as he settled into his chair at the club. We waited for him to speak. "Ten years ago," he said "I told you fellows you hadn't finished with Gold." "Well?" asked young Troughton. "Well, look at the Stock Exchange today. A rush for shares. What shares? Gold shares." "So what?" said Brumswell, rather vulgarly. "Mr Mullet set down his glass of sherry and looked his questioner full in the face. "So Gold" he said. "The beginning and end of the whole business is Gold, as I have always said. Gold it was. Gold it is. Gold it will always be." And he opened his Cornhill, and lay back in his chair.

A World of her own

A ROWDY young lady of great wealth was awakened one morning by her maid with the words, "This is the twelfth." "The twelfth what?" drawled the lady.

NANCY Batten Down the Hatches

By Ernie Bushmiller



